

Nova et Vetera.

DR. JOHN BASTWICK.

MUNK's *Roll of the London College of Physicians* is perhaps more often used as a source of instruction than amusement, although it contains many good stories. Munk's virtues are not very attractive to most people, and his failings are, we suspect, repellent to the youth of this generation. Munk loved a scholar and a gentleman of the old school; he thought it was a point in a physician's favour to be able to write good Latin, and he had very little sympathy with rough, quarrelsome folk who did not behave like gentlemen and scholars. With a subject like Sir George Baker, Munk was at his best, but he was a little unhappy about and puzzled by Sydeaham's neglect to become an F.R.C.P., and he could see no redeeming features in the career of Dr. John Bastwick.

Bastwick was indeed no gentleman—in the Munkian sense. To begin with, although he was entered at Cambridge, he never took a degree there. Then, "apparently not satisfied with his progress in the profession," says our annalist, "and being a man of strong zeal and warm imagination, he applied himself to writing, more particularly against Popery." This rude behaviour led to a fine of £1,000, excommunication, prison, and removal from the list of Licentiates. Even this did not crush the rebel. "His violent temper," says Munk, "would not permit him to be quiet." He became even ruder than before, and in 1637, after arraignment in the Star Chamber, when, as Munk says, he expressed himself in "extraordinary terms," he lost his ears and was packed off first to Launceston and then to the Scilly Isles to await the time when the proceedings against him were reviewed in the House of Commons—possibly in extraordinary terms—and in the College.

"D. Presidens et Censores judicabant D. Bastwick in locum quem habuit in Collegio et ad libertatem praxios restituendum; et amota superiorum censura pro restituto habendum et accipiendum apud omnes Socios, Candidatos et Licentiatos."

This was in 1640. He was to have had money compensation from the estates of the Archbishop of Canterbury, but it does not appear that he ever received it; his affairs were still under discussion in Parliament in 1648.

"What became of him after that is not known. It is generally thought that he returned to Colchester. He died apparently in London. Smith records his burial on the 6th October, 1654."

Such was the career of Bastwick according to Munk. The facts are no doubt correct, but there seems something wanting in the interpretation. It seems incredible that a man, however violent his temper, would think that attacks on the best people would be a professional recommendation in 1633; Bastwick was a college physician, not an empiric. So it is easier to believe that violent temper, rather than fewness of patients, was the motive, and charitable to think that some courage went with the violence of temper.

An examination of the proceedings against Bastwick, Burton, and Prynne for several libels, in the *State Trials*, bears out this view. Bastwick was certainly "no gentleman," but some of the "extraordinary terms" not quoted by Munk suggest that in addition to a violent temper he had both courage and wit. For instance, we find this dialogue:

Lord Keeper: "What say you, Mr. Doctor, are you guilty or not guilty? Answer yea, or no: you needed not to have troubled yourself so much about so large an Answer."

Dr. Bastwick: "I know none of your Honours have read my Book; and can you with the Justice of the Court, condemn me before you know what is written in my Books?"

This was a facer, because the court had certainly not read them (they seem to have been rather long), so the doctor was asked about an extract which had been read in court, and replied:

"My Lord, he that read it did so murder the sense of it, that had I not known, what I had written, I could not tell what to have made of it."

After a few more exchanges, Lord Arundel moved the court to take the case *pro confesso*, which was allowed, whereupon Bastwick said:

"My noble Lord of Arundel, I know you are a noble prince in Israel and a great Peer of this Realm; there are some honourable Lords in this Court, that have been forced out as Combatants in a single Duel; it is between the Prelates and us, at this time, as between two that have appointed the Field. The one being a Coward goes to the Magistrate, and by Virtue of his Authority disarms the other of his Weapons, and gives him a Bullrush, and then challenges him to fight. If this be not base Cowardice; I know not what belongs to a Soldier. This is the Case between the Prelates and us, they take away our Weapons (our Answers) by virtue of your Authority, by which we should defend ourselves and yet they bid us fight. My Lord, doth not this savour of a base cowardly Spirit? I know, my Lord, there is a Decree gone forth (for my Sentence was passed long since) to cut off our Ears."

The Lord Keeper was much shocked by this insinuation and asked, "Do you prophesy of yourselves?" It was at least an accurate prognosis. Dr. Bastwick's speech before torture is not so fully reported as that of his more famous fellow-sufferer Prynne, and is, for the most part, in common form, but there is a touch of rough humour in his addition to a criticism by Prynne of the writings of one Heylin.

"There is another book of his licensed," said the doctor, "wherein he rails against us three at his pleasure, and against the Martyrs that suffered in Queen Mary's days, calling them Schismatical Hereticks; and there is another book of Pocklington's licensed: they be as full of Lyes as Dogs be full of Fleas; but were the Presses as open to us as they are to them, we would pay them, and their great Master that upholds them, and charge them with notorious Blasphemy."

The party of Bastwick won in the end, and the foreshortening of historical perspective leads us to underestimate the courage needed to be on the winning side before it was the winning side. King and Archbishop lost their heads—and it is worse to lose one's head than one's ears. But it is not pleasant to lose one's ears, and the violent-tempered doctor deserved a kindlier epitaph than he received from Munk.

does not develop a phobia of some kind or lose all will power. A further effect of the virus is said to be heightening the victim, if smothered, by his volubility.

full notes from many cases.

BOOKS.

The useful handbook on the death of the editor of the new book has been written thereby, the chapters are rewritten by improved. The cross-reference in a small book. We can find is chloride, and it is the condition is of and at all ages, the author's author fights well there. The book is in that business, being are be (ygen) cutely business. ed, as second book so on we ended could

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received the first two publications¹¹ of the Ravetllat of Barcelona, in which a new conception of the and pathogenesis of tuberculosis is set forth. The publication is a lecture delivered in June, 1922, by Dr. R. Y ARMENGOL, and the second is the conjoint work of the veterinary surgeon J. RAVETLLAT and Dr. PLÁ Y ARMENGOL. The writers maintain that the organism of tuberculosis may appear in three different forms, each of which may be transformed into the other—namely, a diplococcus or diplo-streptococcus, which they call the attacking bacterium, an intermediate or transitional form, and Koch's bacillus. The attacking bacterium, which is always found in the active lesions and the internal organs, especially the spleen, possesses great vitality. Under unfavourable conditions it loses part of its vitality and becomes converted into the intermediate bacterium in the form of granules, which represents the first phase of resistance, and is chiefly found in the pus. Under still more unfavourable conditions the



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